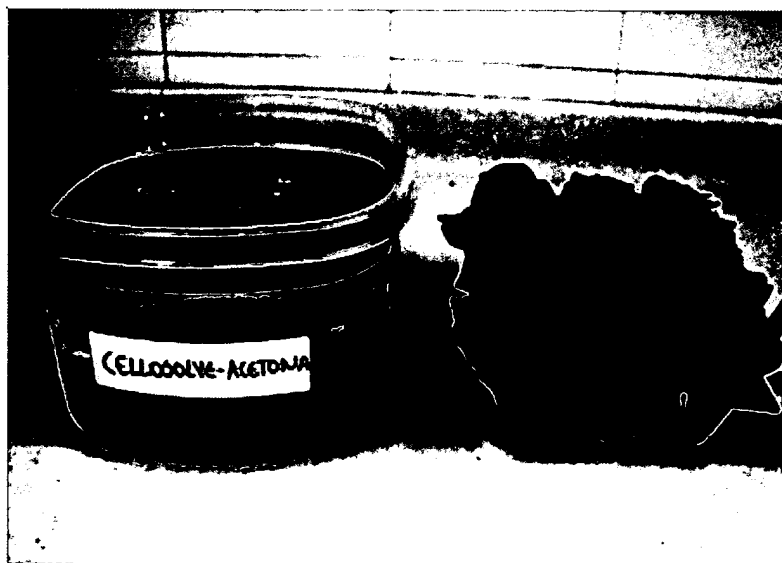


## Results

In order to demonstrate the difference between the results obtained with the method of the present Application and the method of DeWinter-Scaileur, thereby supporting the surprising and advantageous effects of the present method, the Applicant would like to call the examiner's attention to the following pictures that were taken to a comparative assay performed by the applicant.

Two groups of red roses were used: a first group was used with the process disclosed by DeWinter-Scaileur (Figure 1) and a second group was used with methods of the present Application (Figures 2A and 2B).



**Figure 1** (DeWinter-Scaileur)

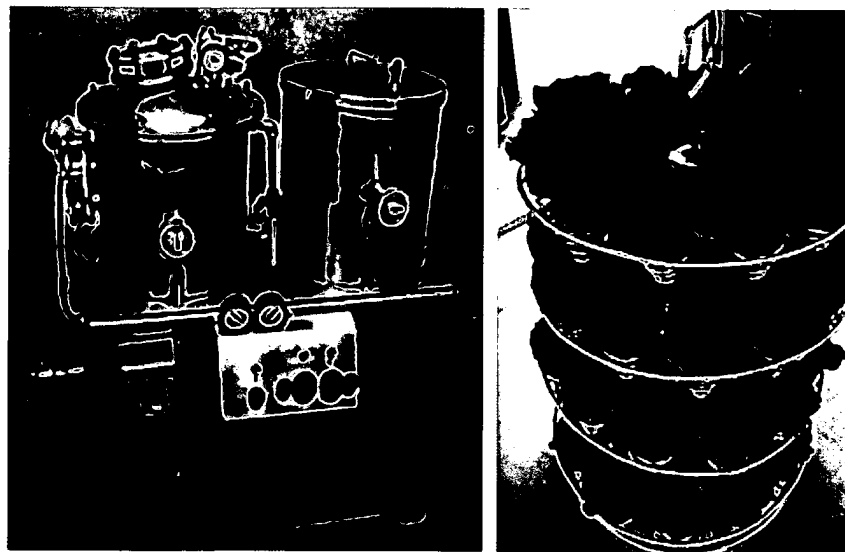


Figure 2

Next, the first batch (the DeWinter-Scaileteur batch) was placed in a receptacle containing molecular sieves which was later filled with a mixture of Cellosolve-Acetone, as shown in Figures 3A-3C. Please note that the receptacle was closed with a cap throughout the duration of the experiment and the cap was removed only for taking the pictures at the beginning and at the end of the experiment.



Figure 3A

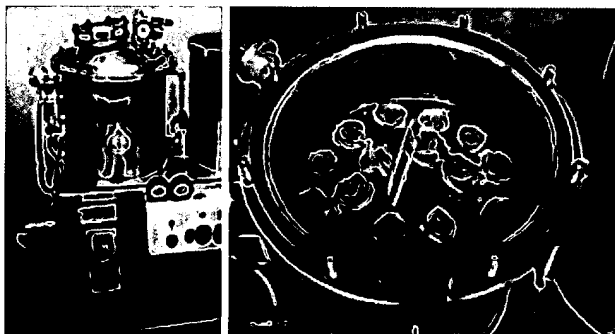


Figure 3B

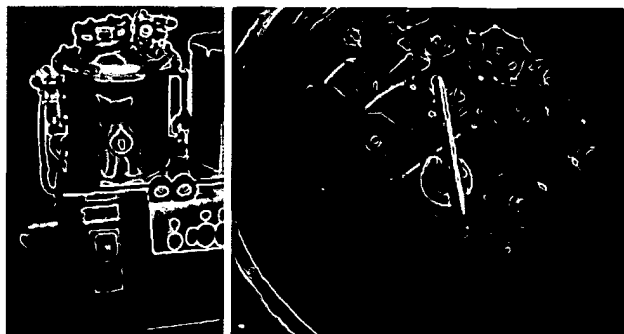


**Figure 3C**

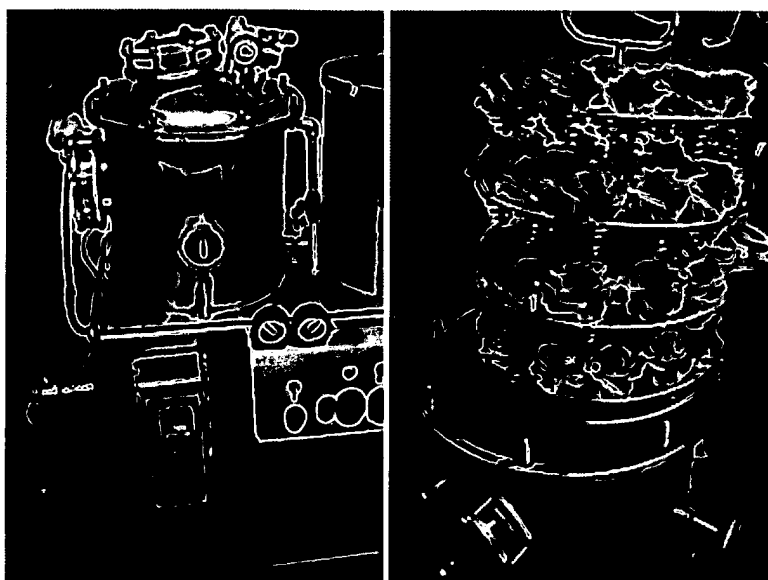
The second batch (the batch of the present Application) was introduced on a reactor that was later filled with ethanol (70 °GL), and the roses were subjected to a three dehydrating steps with incremental concentrations without using molecular sieves. The ethanol concentration was increased from one step to another. In particular, the first dehydrating step used Ethanol > 70 °GL (Figure 4A), the second dehydrating step used Ethanol > 80 °GL (Figure 4B), and the third dehydrating step used Ethanol > 90 °GL (Figure 4C). Please note that the reactor was closed throughout the duration of the experiment and was opened only for taking the pictures at the beginning and at the end of the experiment.



**Figure 4A**



**Figure 4B**



**Figure 4C**

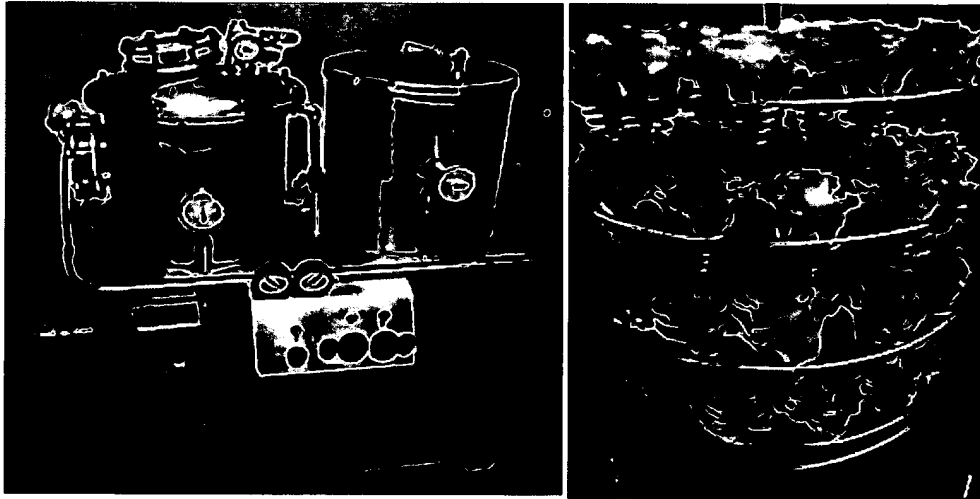
When both dehydration processes finished, it was possible to verify that the process of DeWinter-Scailteur resulted in incomplete and uneven color removal (see e.g., Figures 5A and 5B). Whereas, the claimed methods of the present Application provided a substantially complete color removal (see e.g., Figure 6).



Figure 5A



Figure 5B



**FIGURE 6**

The subsequent infiltration step was performed following the procedures discussed above in *Experimental Procedures*. The infiltration step is shown in Figures 5A-5B and 6. Then the flowers were subjected to a drying step (De Winter-Scailteur) or evaporation step (the present Application), after which the resulting flowers can be observed:



**Figure 7**



**Figure 8**

Figure 7 is the result of the DeWinter-Scaileteur process using a single dehydrating step as outlined above in *Experimental Procedures*. Figure 7 shows a flower with uneven color with a greasy appearance having a plastic texture when touched. Figure 8 is the result of the method claimed in the present Application. Figure 8 shows the flowers obtained by the process of the present Application are flexible, soft when touched, and have a good appearance. The effect of using the three claimed dehydrating steps of different solutions unexpectedly exceeds the effect that might be expected by repeating a dehydrating step three times.